

STAGE ROUTES.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

In relation to stage routes in said State.

MARCH 23, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

A MEMORIAL of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States, in relation to stage routes.

The memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi respectfully represents unto your honorable body, that the present mode of conveying the mails through a portion of the said State of Mississippi is wholly inadequate to the public demands; that a portion of the State, comprising the counties of Attala, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Pontotoc—central counties, which a few years past was a wilderness, inhabited only by savages—is now densely populated, equal in numbers to but few counties in the State. Before the organization and settlement of those counties, the leading mail route, from Jackson through the northeastern portion of the State, was established in view of the then population, which was mainly confined to the counties of Monroe and Lowndes, and was consequently directed circuitously, at a great increase of travelling distance; this circuitous transportation of the mail is yet continued; to the great privation and injury of the country, its dense population notwithstanding. Four-fifths of theailable matter transported from Jackson, and south of that point to the counties of Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Pontotoc, is necessarily directed on this circuitous and unfavorable route, from the fact that the only line of stages passing through that country runs on the line above mentioned. This line as now in operation runs from Kosciusko to Columbus and Aberdeen, where it intersects another line; from thence, via Pontotoc, to Holly Springs. A large portion of this route passes through a prairie county, almost impassable for a large portion of the year; whereas a direct route from Kosciusko, via Greensborough and Houston, to Pontotoc, passes through no prairie, and, with the exception of a few swamps, is an excellent dry and firm road, and would curtail the distance about one-fifth.

This memorial further represents that a line of stage-coaches, tri-weekly, from Kosciusko, via Greensborough and Houston, to Pontotoc, as aforesaid,
Tippin & Streeper, printers.

or, which would be equivalent thereto, to change the present line from Aberdeen to Pontotoc so as to run it by the way of Houston, and terminate the former at Houston, would add greatly to the convenience of a large and meritorious portion of the people of the State; and even then fall far short of doing justice to them, compared to the facilities granted to other portions of her citizens.

This memorial further represents, that in addition to the route and change of route above suggested, a further line, properly connected with the former, running from Greensborough, via Shongola, Middleton and Carrollton, to Greenwood, would constitute one direct and continued line from Tuscumbia, Alabama, (that great reservoir of southern mails,) to Greenwood, Mississippi, a regular shipping point on the Yazoo river.

This memorial further represents, that a mail route with four-horse post coaches, commencing at Kosciusko, in Attala county, and passing through Greensborough, Choctaw county; thence to Houston, Chickasaw county; thence to Pontotoc, Pontotoc county; thence to New Albany, Pontotoc county; thence to Ripley, Tippah county; thence to Berlin, Hardeman county, Tennessee; thence to Bolivar, Hardeman county, Tennessee; would make a route of mail coaches passing through the centre of the State of Mississippi, more than one half of its length, to the city of Jackson; and directly connecting with the great western route, passing through Nashville, Tennessee, and Lexington and Maysville, Kentucky; and also intersecting the great southern mail route from Charleston, South Carolina, to Memphis, Tennessee, at Ripley, Mississippi. This memorial would state that this entire route, after it leaves Greensborough, Choctaw county, is a ridge way, and is the nearest and most direct route north, to the western mail route to Washington city, that could be established in this State, and would pass through seven of the most populous counties of the State of Mississippi: Therefore,

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to urge upon Congress to establish the routes above suggested; and also to urge upon the Postmaster General the necessity of causing the mails to be carried on the same by means of stage coaches to be drawn by two or four horses, as the weight and character of the mails may require.

Be it further resolved, That the governor cause to be transmitted to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress a copy of the foregoing memorial and resolutions.

JOHN J. McRAE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DABNEY LIPSCOMB,

President of the Senate.

Approved February 25, 1848.

J. W. MATTHEWS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, Samuel Stamps, secretary of state of the State of Mississippi, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing, on pages numbered one and two, contains a true, correct, and an exact copy of a memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi, entitled "A memorial of the legislature of the

